The Year in Forestry

State and Private Forestry in the Northeast and Midwest

Fiscal Year 2007

Executive Summary

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
Newtown Square, PA 19073

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Executive Summary

The Forests We Care For and the People We Serve

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA), a unit of the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, covers a 20-State region and the District of Columbia. The region is home to 41 percent of the nation's people and 23 percent of its forests. Private landowners hold nearly 130 million acres, including forest land owned by almost 5 million family forest land owners.

Overall, Northeast and Midwest forests are healthy and productive. The landscape continues to produce more forest growth than the amount harvested. Most of the region's plants and animals are thriving, and key tracts of important forest land are being permanently protected for environmental benefits. Nearly 600,000 people work at jobs directly connected to forests.

Millions of acres of State and private forest land provide public benefits that citizens and visitors alike depend upon. These forests protect drinking water and provide recreational opportunities, forest products, cleaner air, and the chance to encounter wildlife. Many of these forest benefits are irreplaceable, yet nearly 3.8 million acres of forest were lost to development between 1982 and 1997, with another 12 million acres projected to be lost by the year 2030.

Our Accomplishments

The Northeastern Area's mission is to encourage and support sustainable management of the region's non-Federal forest land. In Fiscal Year 2007, the Northeastern Area and its State partners supported management and protection activities on an additional three quarters of a million acres of private and State forest land. In addition, programs provided education, technical assistance, and financial assistance that influenced the management of millions of acres more in rural forests and communities.

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Selected Program Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2007	
Stewardship plans prepared	9,076
Acres under new or revised stewardship plans	728,365
Acres under stewardship plans (all years)	7,296,241
Technical assists to landowners	53,202
Acres owned by landowners receiving educational services	6,444,521
Rural fire departments assisted	3,305
Communities assisted--State fire assistance (includes National Fire Plan)	11,513
Acres surveyed for forest health	233,892,851
Communities involved in Urban and Community Forestry programs	3,525
Population in communities with active Urban Forestry programs	71,586,661
Per capita program cost in assisted communities	$0.09

The cornerstones of these programs are expert knowledge and analysis, scientific information, fruitful partnerships with States and other cooperators, and a focus on value for every Federal dollar invested. Competitive grants are typically matched on at least a one-to-one basis.

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry On-the-Ground Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2007		
Program	**Activity** [1]	**Acres** [2]
Fire	Fuels reduction in the wildland-urban interface	92,900
Fire	Management on military lands; U.S. Army Environmental Center	25,000
Forest Legacy	Permanent protection	68,900
Forest Health	Pest treatments	525,000
Watershed	Permanent protection	2,200
Watershed	Riparian buffers	5,000
Total		719,000

[1] Does not include surveys, inventories, or technical assistance, which would add more than 235 million acres to the total.

[2] Rounded to nearest 100.

Many examples of successful cooperative efforts to protect and restore forests stretch across the Northeast and Midwest, often from work occurring over a number of years. The Forest Legacy Program, which helps States and other partners acquire important forest land or conservation easements from willing sellers, has helped to permanently protect more than 1 million acres since it began a little more than a decade ago. The Federal cost has averaged just 48 percent of the property's value over the life of the program, well under the 75 percent stipulated by regulation. These acquisitions would not have been possible without the cooperation of hundreds of conservation-minded organizations and citizens.

Urban and community trees are vital to the economic, social, and environmental health of cities and towns. They sequester carbon, reduce air pollution and storm water runoff, and conserve energy—"environmental services" worth hundreds of millions of dollars. In Fiscal Year 2007, more than 74 percent of the region's population benefited from Urban and Community Forestry Program services. After hearing about a U.S. Forest Service study that pegged the annual environmental value of New York City's trees at more than $122 million, Mayor Bloomberg announced a goal to plant 1 million new trees over the next decade.

The following table illustrates accomplishments and shows some of the ways that programs benefit the region.

Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Sample Activities and Benefits				
Program	**Program Investments** *(millions)*	**Challenge or opportunity**	**Sample activities**	**Sample results and benefits**
Urban and Community Forestry	$10.3 in FY 2007 $10.5 in FY 2006 $10.9 in FY 2005	9,066 communities potentially eligible* 121 million citizens in 20 States and DC	Assisted 3,525 communities Volunteers contributed 491,000 days of service Served communities with 74% of population in Northeast and Midwest	NYC's trees provide $122 million in environmental services yearly. Several mayors, including Bloomberg, launched tree-planting and canopy cover initiatives for conservation and reduction of carbon dioxide and particulates
Fire Management (Cooperative Fire Protection and National Fire Plan)	$21.1 in FY 2007 $20.1 in FY 2006 $18.1 in FY 2005	62.8 million acres in wildland-urban interface 15,138 volunteer fire departments 11,323 communities potentially eligible**	Prescribed fires on 90,100 acres in wildland-urban interface; mechanical treatment: 2,805 acres (National Fire Plan) 3,305 departments assisted 13,490 trained in Incident Command System	Dramatic reduction in wildfire risk with treatments in wildland-urban interface Enhanced rapid by volunteer fire departments Fire/disaster preparedness enhanced
Forest Health Management	$28.0 in FY 2007 $26.8 in FY 2006 $25.4 in FY 2005	234 million forest acres Asian longhorned beetle Emerald ash borer (EAB) Hemlock woolly adelgid Gypsy moth Sudden oak death	Detected new EAB infestations in Pennsylvania and West Virginia Risk mapping completed in all 20 States Supported invasive insect or disease treatment on 524,572 acres Worked with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to develop and release potential biocontrol for Sirex woodwasp	Slowing the spread is three times more cost-effective than monitoring and treating infested areas Virginia EAB spot infestation eradicated Risk maps help managers set priorities for monitoring and treatment, and predicting spread of forest pests Developed promising natural control for Sirex, which threatens U.S. pine species planted worldwide
Forest Stewardship	$15.1 in FY 2007 $12.1 in FY 2006 $11.5 in FY 2005	Number of potentially eligible landowners: 3.9 million Potentially eligible acres: 114.8 million	All 20 States have completed Statewide spatial analysis assessments for air, water, forest, stewardship property Stewardship plans written for 737,000 acres	States can identify, map, and serve high-priority natural resources Nearly a third of acres served—over 234,300 acres—were in priority areas Stewardship plans, studies say, lead to better environmental outcomes
Forest Legacy	$23.3 in FY 2007 $29.0 in FY 2006 $27.6 in FY 2005	3.7 million forest acres converted to non-forest uses or lost to development between 1982 and 1997	Conservation easements or fee purchases completed on nearly 69,000 acres	Protected values include critical wetlands in Vermont, protection of Appalachian trail section in Maine, and drinking water in New York

* Communities with population over 1,000.
** Includes communities with population under 1,000 and unincorporated places.

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